

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05

BIB-01 DODE-00 NEA-09 /090 W
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R 071756Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6535

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 03441

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, GW, FR

SUBJECT: GISCARD-SCHMIDT MEETING: POLITICAL SUBJECTS

REF: (A) PARIS 3084(NOTAL); (B) BONN 2114 (LIMDIS)(NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: QUAI OFFICIAL GAVE US RUN DOWN ON
SEVERAL POLITICAL ISSUES DISCUSSED DURING FRANCO-GERMAN
SUMMIT EARLIER THIS WEEK, INCLUDING UK RENEGOTIATION,
DUBLIN EC SUMMIT, DETENTE, CSCE, EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE AND
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DEFENSE. THE FRENCH ARE PLEASED WITH THE GROWING "HABIT"

OF INFORMAL AND FREQUENT CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN FRENCH AND GERMAN BUREAUCRACIES. END SUMMARY.

2. IN DISCUSSION WITH US, PLAISANT (QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CENTRAL EUROPE) BRIEFED US ON SOME POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE FRANCO-GERMAN SUMMIT EARLIER THIS WEEK.

3. UK RENEGOTIATION: ELABORATING ON REPORT IN PARA 2 OF REF A, PLAISANT SAID THAT FRENCH AND GERMANS WERE IN BASIC AGREEMENT THAT BRITAIN SHOULD REMAIN IN EC, AND THAT EC-EIGHT SHOULD MAKE SPECIAL EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE UK "RENEGOTIATION" NEEDS. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT FRENCH ARE SOMEWHAT MORE RIGID THAN GERMANS WITH REGARD TO HOW FLEXIBLE EACH COUNTRY SHOULD BE IN MEETING UK DEMANDS. HE CITED SLIGHTLY DIFFERING APPROACHES BY PARIS AND BY BONN TO QUESTION OF HOW FAR EC-EIGHT SHOULD GO TO MEET UK DEMANDS FOR REFORM IN EC BUDGET SYSTEM.

4. EC POLITICAL AFFAIRS: PLAISANT SAID THERE WAS GENERAL DISCUSSION OF WAYS TO MAKE EC MORE EFFICIENT IN THE AREA OF POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID FRENCH HAD SUGGESTED TO GERMANS THAT NEXT EC SUMMIT MEETING IN DUBLIN SHOULD LIMIT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETINGS TO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT PLUS FOREIGN MINISTERS TO CREATE RELATIVELY INTIMATE ATMOSPHERE TO ENCOURAGE INFORMAL AND CANDID EXCHANGES THAT WOULD BE NEEDED TO ARRIVE AT KEY POLITICAL DECISIONS. WHILE GERMANS SEEMED TO ACCEPT IDEA OF RESTRICTIONS ON SIZE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING PLAISANT SAID FRG SEEMED TO ENVISION SOMEWHAT LARGER PARTICIPATION. FRENCH ALSO SUGGESTED THAT AGENDA FOR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT CONSIDERATION AT DUBLIN SHOULD BE RIGOROUSLY LIMITED TO FEW KEY ITEMS, IN EXPECTATIONS THAT THOSE ITEMS WOULD BE TREATED IN SOME DEPTH BY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. OTHER, LESS IMPORTANT ITEMS, WOULD BE LEFT TO DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN LOWER RANKING MEMBERS OF NATIONAL DELEGATIONS AT SUMMIT MEETING. APPARENTLY, THE GERMANS FOUND NO DIFFICULTY WITH THIS APPROACH.

5. DETENTE: GISCARD AND SCHMIDT AGREED THAT DETENTE WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT IN DANGER AND THAT SOVIETS -- EVEN UNDER ANY OF THE LIKELY SUCCESSORS TO BREZHNEV -- WOULD BE LIKELY TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO PURSUE DETENTE.

6. CSCE: THE GERMANS RECITED THEIR POLICY ON FRONTIERS, AND FRENCH REPEATED THEIR RESERVATIONS CONCERNING CBM'S. SAUVAGNARGUES UNDERLINED THE FRENCH PREFERENCE FOR SEEING CBM'S TREATED IN MBFR RATHER THAN IN CSCE.

7. EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE: PLAISANT'S REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT FOLLOWED CLOSELY VAN WELL'S STATEMENT TO AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND (PARA 5, REF B). ACCORDING TO PLAISANT, FRENCH AND GERMANS AGREE THAT EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE MUST MOVE AHEAD AND THAT MECHANISM CAN BE FOUND THAT WILL AVOID POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES ASSOCIATED WITH PLO PARTICIPATION. DRAWING ON PARA 3 OF STATE 25103, WE UNDERLINED US RESERVATIONS CONCERNING PLO ROLE IN EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE.

8. DEFENSE: PLAISANT DID NOT SEEM TO BE FULLY INFORMED

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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ON THE DEFENSE ASPECTS OF MEETINGS. INDEED, WITH SOUFFLET'S RECENT REPLACEMENT BY BCURGES, IT MAY BE THAT DEFENSE DISCUSSIONS DURING SUMMIT WERE MORE LIMITED THAN MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. PLAISANT SAID THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF PROGRAM FOR REHABILITATION OF BARRACKS AND OTHER FACILITIES AT FRENCH BASES IN GERMANY. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW, THERE HAD BEEN NO DISCUSSION OF PLUTON OR OF POSSIBLE FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN FORWARD DEFENSE OF FRG TERRITORY.

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9. COMMENT: ALL SIGNS SUGGEST THAT THIS FRANCO-GERMAN SUMMIT WAS CHARACTERIZED BY THE INFORMALITY AND CANDID EXCHANGE THAT HAS BEEN SOUGHT BY BOTH GISCARD AND SCHMIDT. MOREOVER, FROM SUBSTANTIVE POINT OF VIEW, FRENCH ARE QUITE PLEASED WITH EXTENT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN BONN AND PARIS ON MOST OF THE KEY ISSUES THAT CONFRONT FRANCE AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. IN PARTICULAR, FRENCH ARE PLEASED WITH BROAD AND CONTINUING FRANCO-GERMAN CONSULTATIONS BELOW LEVEL OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT THAT INCREASINGLY ARE BECOMING THE HABIT BETWEEN WORKING LEVELS IN BONN AND PARIS BUREAUCRACIES. NEW QUAI POLITICAL DIRECTOR DE LABOULAYE CONFIRMED TO DCM THE FRENCH SATISFACTION WITH SUMMIT OUTCOME, QUOTING GISCARD AS VOLUNTEERING THAT HE WAS "EXTREMELY PLEASED" WITH THIS MEETING.

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